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S. F. Rowland

MEMORIAL

PROCEEDINGS OF THE SENATE

UPON THE DEATH OF

HON. G. FRANK ROWLAND,

LATE A SENATOR FROM THE FOURTEENTH DISTRICT

OF

PENNSYLVANIA.

FROM
PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY
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RESOLUTION.

In the Senate,
April 9, 1909.

Resolved, (if the House of Representatives concur), That one thousand (1,000) copies of the proceedings of the Memorial services, held in honor of the late Honorable G. Frank Rowland, be printed for the use of the Senate.

HARMON M. KEPHART,
Chief Clerk of the Senate.

The foregoing resolution concurred in April 9, 1909.

THOMAS H. GARVIN,
Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives.

Approved—The 13th day of May, A. D. 1909.

EDWIN S. STUART.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE SENATE

UPON THE DEATH OF

HON. G. FRANK ROWLAND.

In the Senate,
Wednesday, March 3, 1909.

On motion of Senator Grim, the following resolution was twice read, considered and agreed to, viz:

Resolved, That a committee of eight members of the Senate be appointed to draft suitable resolutions on the death of the late Senator, G. Frank Rowland, who died on October two, one thousand nine hundred and seven, and present such resolutions at a special meeting to be held on Wednesday, March twenty-four, one thousand nine hundred and nine, at three o'clock post meridian.

MEMORIAL RESOLUTIONS AND ADDRESSES.

In the Senate,
Wednesday, March 24, 1909.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Pursuant to adjournment, the Senate was called to order at three o'clock post meridian, President Pro Tempore Sisson in the Chair.

PRAYER.

Prayer was offered by Reverend M. D. Lichliter, as follows:

O, Lord, we recognize Thee as the Father of our being; Thou dost give and Thou dost take away. Help us in our own hearts to bless God for all His mercies and for the privileges of living in this world. In the midst of life's cares and life's duties impress upon each of us, upon each of the members of this Senate, the important thought of our latter end. We are taught upon every side of the uncertainty of life and the certainty of death; that we are like as grass that groweth up and is cut down and withereth; we are here for a day and then go to our long home. As the winter comes the earth is covered with snow and the earth is frozen, an emblem of death; yet as the zephyrs of the spring time are swept upon us reminding us that the flowers will again bloom and the earth will be covered with verdure, so from Thy blessed word come the zephyrs from the mighty tomb of our blessed Christ that they who sleep shall rise again and their mortal bodies shall be clothed with immortal bodies and they shall enter into the rest prepared for Thy people with bodies crowned like unto Thine own glorious

body. Bless, we pray Thee, this service and especially let Thy blessing rest upon the immediate friends of the deceased; comfort them by Thy word and Spirit, and especially bless him that is the brother representing his district in this Senate. Be Thou especially near to him. Hear us and bless us, and finally when life is o'er, bring us to heaven through Christ. Amen.

Mr. GRIM. Mr. President, I desire to offer the following resolutions:

RESOLUTIONS.

Whereas, G. Frank Rowland, a member of the Senate of Pennsylvania for the Fourteenth Senatorial District, has, during the interim of the present session of the Senate, departed this life; and

Whereas, His services to his constituents and the State of Pennsylvania, entitle him to commemoration by the members of this Senate; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate of Pennsylvania hereby enter upon its minutes its appreciation of the services of the late Senator Rowland, as a member of this body. He was at all times esteemed for his fidelity to duty and for the honest endeavor which he brought to the solution of questions of legislation submitted to the Senate during the session of 1907; and

Resolved, That we hereby express our sympathy to his family, and direct that a copy of these resolutions, properly attested, be communicated with our respect to the members of his family.

WEBSTER GRIM,
A. G. DEWALT,
JAMES K. P. HALL,
EDWARD F. BLEWITT,
EDWARD F. JAMES,
WILLIAM H. KEYSER,
EDWIN M. HERBST,
JOSEPH A. LANGFITT.

ADDRESSES.

Mr. GRIM. Mr. President, One week ago to-day we gathered here to pay a last tribute to our late fellow-member, Senator Algernon Brooke Roberts, and to-day we have met to pay our public tribute of respect to another fellow-member who passed away during his term of office, the Senator from Pike county, G. Frank Rowland. The ravages of time and death alike make great changes in our ranks. A few days ago I looked upon the picture which contains the photographs of the members of the Senate of one thousand nine hundred and five. I noted the changes and could scarcely realize that thirty-five, or two-thirds, of the members who sat with us in the session before the last one, are with us no longer, and that one-fifth of that number have been called to their reward. I venture the assertion that at no other period in the history of the Commonwealth has such a great change been made within the short space of four years. With truth has it been said that "Our days are like the shadow that declineth. As for man, his days are as the grass, as the flowers of the field so he perisheth, for the wind passeth over it and it is gone, and the place thereof shall know it no more." We are accustomed to look upon the Senate as a continuous body, in which few changes take place. The Senate is a continuous body, surrounded by customs and bulwarked by the traditions of the past. We glory in its seeming stability, but the members thereof come like the mountain streams in the spring tide, and go like the flotsam that is swept over Niagara. The ship of State rides on, but the sailors who man her are swept from her decks, and new hands and new faces pull the sails or turn the wheel. Such is the rule of our existence.

Honorable George Frank Rowland was born in Rowland, Pike county, Pennsylvania, September seventh, one thousand eight hundred and fifty, where his father, Honorable George H. Rowland, was then and until the time of his death, in one thousand eight hundred and ninety-five, engaged in business as merchant, lumberman and farmer. He was educated in

the public schools of his native village, at Fort Edward Collegiate Institute, Fort Edward, New York, and Eastman's Business College, Poughkeepsie, New York.

After completing his education, he returned to his home and assisted his father in the management of his business until one thousand eight hundred and eighty-two, when he located in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, and engaged in the mercantile business until one thousand eight hundred and ninety-seven, when, on account of the recent death of his father, he returned to his former home and assumed the management of his father's estate; here he remained until the time of his death.

He was postmaster at Rowland, Pennsylvania, from one thousand eight hundred and seventy-two to one thousand eight hundred and eighty-two, and again from one thousand eight hundred and ninety-seven to one thousand nine hundred and four, having resigned both commissions because other business engagements demanded his whole attention.

Senator Rowland was all his mature life a supporter of Democratic principles, but until the time of his return to his former home, in Pike county, in one thousand eight hundred and ninety-seven, his business engagements had been such as to afford him little time to engage in the active work of his party. Soon after his return to his native county, he became a worker in the ranks of his party, and so efficient were his labors that in one thousand eight hundred and ninety-nine he was nominated and elected County Treasurer of Pike county. In one thousand nine hundred and two and one thousand nine hundred and four he was nominated by the Democracy of his county as their choice for Congress, failing, however, to receive the district nomination. During his comparatively short political career he was frequently called upon to serve his party as a delegate to district and State conventions, which service he always performed cheerfully.

He was elected to the Senate of Pennsylvania from the Fourteenth District in November, one thousand nine hundred and six, and served during the session of one thousand

nine hundred and seven. He died at his home, at Rowland, on October second, one thousand nine hundred and seven. Senator Rowland was never married, and at the time of his death was living at the Rowland homestead, with two unmarried sisters.

It was my good fortune to know Senator Rowland well. He was a faithful and conscientious public servant, and while he made no pretentions of being a leading member of the Senate, he was a valued member of the minority and had an important part and mission in the reform legislation of one thousand nine hundred and seven. We all loved him for his kindness of heart and sympathetic nature. He never was a fault finder, and never a word of criticism did he pass upon his fellow-members. He was conscientious at all times; he belonged to that class of men who practice the proverb that "A soft answer turneth away wrath," a trait of character that all of us could contemplate with profit to one's peace of mind. The world in these days of selfishness needs more of the "milk of human kindness," and when we find a man who has trained himself to practice this virtue, we feel that the world can ill afford to spare him.

"True worth is in being, not seeming,
In doing each day that goes by
Some little good, not in the dreaming
Of great things to do by and by.
For whatever men say in their blindness,
And spite of the fancies of youth,
There's nothing so kingly as kindness,
And nothing so royal as truth."

Such a man was our fellow-member, Senator Rowland. But his work was ended suddenly; almost in the twinkling of an eye, he was beckoned across the River. He answered the summons, and there safe within the mansions of eternal bliss, far removed from the strife and turmoil of this life, he rests, we hope, in peace.

"There is many a rest in the road of life,
If we only would stop to take it,
And many a tune from the better Land,
If the querulous heart would make it!

To the sunny soul that is full of hope,
And whose beautiful trust ne'er faileth,
The grass is green and the flowers are bright,
Though the wintry storm prevaileth."

"Better to hope, though the clouds hang low,
And to keep the eyes still lifted;
For the sweet blue sky will soon peep through,
When the ominous clouds are rifted;
There was never a night without a day
Or an evening without a morning;
And the darkest hour, as the proverb goes,
Is the hour before the dawning.

"Better to weave in the web of life
A bright and golden filling,
And to do God's will with a ready heart,
And hands that are swift and willing,
Than to snap the delicate, slender threads
Of our curious lives asunder,
And then blame Heaven for the tangled ends,
And sit, and grieve, and wonder."

Mr. MILLER (Northampton). Mr. President and Fellow-Senators, It is a melancholy duty and yet a privilege not to be foregone to speak a word touching the life of the friend and fellow-Senator who has so lately passed from our midst. Of him whose amiable personal qualities endeared him to us all in so great a degree. Senator Rowland was born in Rowland, Pike County, on the seventh day of September, Anno Domini one thousand eight hundred and fifty. Was elected a member of the Senate of Pennsylvania in November, one thousand nine hundred and six, from the Fourteenth Senatorial District which, with Northampton, the Eighteenth District, which I have the honor to represent, forms the Twenty-sixth Congressional District of Pennsylvania.

My acquaintance with Senator Rowland is of very recent date, dating back to one thousand nine hundred and four. I met him during the summer of that year while attending several Congressional conferences, hence I am not qualified to speak of his early life and career, more than to state that he had been held in high esteem by his constituency, and that numerous honors were bestowed upon him by his native county and by his Senatorial and Congressional Districts.

He has gone from us so recently that it is hard to realize that his familiar presence is not among us still, and even harder yet to know that we shall never more see him in his seat in this hall, or in his place at the committee table. It is painful to adjust ourselves to the stony reality of fact with respect to his departure—painful to think that he has gone irrevocably on his long journey to the undiscovered country, from whose bourne no traveler returns.

Yes, he has gone from us so recently that his presence is as fresh before our minds as though we had heard him greet us but an hour ago.

We all know that his temperament and disposition were alike lovable and rare. All his instincts were kindly and humane. He was utterly devoid of malice. His heart was warm and gentle as a woman's, and his conscience as delicate and keen.

None of us in the legislative arena here, ever heard an unkind word fall from his lips. His temper was of the sweetest, inoffensive, beneficent.

So far as my knowledge and observation extend, all outward manifestations of anger, resentment, and irritation were unknown to him and to his conduct in life.

He never considered or treated public questions from the personal side or from the private or individual standpoint. On the contrary, his treatment of such questions was invariably abstract and impersonal, whether they were distinctly political or public in a wide sense.

He had strong, pure affections that bound him to his State and to his friends like hands of steel.

> "He seemed the thing he was, and joined
> Each office of the social hour
> To noble manner, as the flower,
> And native growth of noble mind;
> And thus he bore without abuse
> The grand old name of gentleman."

I know of no sincerer compliment which the living pay the dead than their sorrow; and as for Senator Rowland, with all my heart, I wish he were living still.

There was, there is, no simpler, gentler, manlier man.

Mr. JAMES. Mr. President and Fellow-Members: It was my good fortune also to know Senator Rowland. We came here, as most men do, to this body—strangers. We first met on this floor. I was assigned to a seat next to his, and we became very warm friends. He was possessed of a bright, happy disposition, and his friends who knew him best appreciated the warmth of the rays of sunshine that radiated from the soul of this man, who was always ready with a smile and a clasp of hand, such as to make you feel that it was good to know him, and to be numbered among his friends. I think, perhaps, nothing more beautiful can come into any man's life than the association which we enjoy here in the Senate of Pennsylvania. And while speaking for myself I am sure that I voice the sentiments of my colleagues when I say that this good fellowship appeals to no one stronger than the man whose memory we are here to call to mind this afternoon. During the past summer I had occasion to go into his home town. I made inquiry for him there among his friends. It was the first time I had visited that part of the State, and was going to say I was surprised to know how many people knew him. In conversation with a man whom I met by accident, while stopping over in the town for a few hours, who, after he knew that I had been acquainted with Senator Rowland, said to me, "Senator James, I want to say to you that in this part of the country we all loved Frank Rowland." I told his friend on that occasion, "That is not strange, because we learned to do that in Harrisburg." During the last session of the Senate, when he and I were here as new members, and as some of you older members very well know, we were oftentimes in need of the advice and counsel of the other fellow. I never hesitated and always took a great deal of pleasure in asking that of Frank Rowland, which we frequently ask of the other men on this floor. And you, gentlemen, who were here at that time, know that anything in the power of Frank Rowland to give, was always most cheerfully given. During that session a great many of my friends from my home town visited here, and were always extended the courtesies usually given by the Sen-

ators on occasions of that kind. Frank Rowland was one of the first who took care to see that my friends were looked after and taken care of while here. I shall always remember him for his unselfishness, and also for his many acts of kindness, not only to myself, but to the people with whom he came in daily contact.

I deem it a great privilege, Mr. President, on this occasion to say this word in his memory.

The question being on the adoption of the resolutions, the yeas and nays were taken in accordance with the direction of the Chair, and were as follows:

YEAS.

Messrs. Baldwin, Blewitt, Campbell, Catlin, Cochran, Crawford, Crow, Dewalt, Dimeling, Durham, Fox, Gerberich, Grim, Hall, Harper, Hays, Homsher, Hulings, James, Jamison, Keyser, Kline, Klinedinst, Kurtz, Manbeck, Martin, McConnell, McIlhenny, McNichol, Miller (Northampton), Miller (Bedford), Murphy, Riley, Rodgers, Rowland, Shields, Snyder, Templeton, Thomson, Tustin, Vare, Walton, Weingartner, Wertz, Wilbert, Wolf and Sisson, President pro tempore.—47.

ABSENT AND NOT VOTING.

Messrs. Herbst, Langfitt and Sproul.—3.

All the Senators having voted in the affirmative, the Chair declared that the resolutions were unanimously adopted.

ADJOURNMENT.

Mr. GRIM. Mr. President, I move that the Senate do now adjourn.

Mr. MILLER (Northampton). Mr. President, I second the motion.

The question being,

Will the Senate agree to the motion?

It was agreed to.

Whereupon at four o'clock post meridian, the Memorial session adjourned.

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